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10/803,106	03/18/2004	Jong Hyun Woo	LT-0059	5307

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EXAMINER	
SIM, YONG H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2629	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/803,106	WOO, JONG HYUN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yong Sim	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 November 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,9-15,18,19,21-26,28,30 and 32-38* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,9-15,18,19,21-26,28,30 and 32-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/ are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/13/2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/13/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to claims 1, 11 and 21, Applicant argues that the Office Action has failed to meet the standards for an obviousness rejection.

However, Examiner respectfully disagrees since as indicated in Para 0038 of Applicant's specification, controlling a PWM frequency based on an average frame frequency is an "alternative" way of expressing the LCD frame frequency. Applicants neither shows nor describes any advantage of using an average frame frequency over using the LCD frame frequencies expressed by the minimum and maximum frequencies to yield a different outcome or result.

Therefore, it would have been obvious variation of the design to use the average frame frequency or any other frequency within the specified range of the EDID to optimize the PWM frequency of the LCD device (KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S.-, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to include the features of dependent claims 29, 31 and 27, respectively. Examiner asserts that claims 29, 31 and 27 included limitations that were "alternative"[emphasis added] to the limitations of claims 28, 30 and 26, respectively, as described in the paragraph 0038 of the specification. By amending claims 1, 11 and 21 to include the

limitations of 29, 31 and 27, the dependent claims 28, 30 and 26 now depend on claims 1, 11 and 21 including the limitations of 29, 31 and 27 respectively.

Claim 26 for example, includes the limitations of claims 1, 29 and 28. Claim 28 is no longer alternative, but inclusive of claim 28 instead.

Therefore, claims 26, 28 and 30 contain subject matter which was not described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1 – 3, 6, 9 – 15, 19, 21 – 22, 26, 28, 30 and 32 – 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta et al. (US 2001/0004257 A1, hereinafter "Nitta") in view of Nuimura (US 2004/0008176 A1) and further in view of Acharya et al. (Hereinafter "Acharya" US 2002/008091 A1).

Re claim 1, Nitta teaches a method for identifying an LCD (Para 0006; "display apparatus such as liquid crystal display) frame frequency recorded in extended display identification data (EDID) of a memory provided in an LCD (Para 0011; "display has specification information already stored in its memory. This specification information is called EDID, and included, for example, frame rate.) to automatically make optimal settings for a proper display;

But does not specifically disclose controlling an inverter pulse width modulation (PWM) frequency of a liquid crystal display (LCD) in a portable computer, comprising:

deriving a PWM frequency of an inverter adapted to control a brightness of the LCD responsive to the identified LCD frame frequency; and

driving the LCD in accordance with the derived PWM frequency of the inverter for optimal display settings.

However, Nuimura teaches a method for controlling an inverter (inverter 4a) [Nuimura: Fig. 1] pulse width modulation (PWM) frequency of a liquid crystal display (LCD) [Nuimura: Para 0004; "display devices such as LCD used in notebook."] in a portable computer [Nuimura: Para 0027, lines 24 - 29; "the CPU determines the frequency fc of the PWM signal Sc by inputting the frequency of the vertical synchronization frequency fv specified by frequency data Df."], comprising:

deriving a PWM frequency of an inverter adapted to control a brightness of the LCD responsive to the identified LCD frame frequency [Nuimura: Para 0012, lines 4 - 8; "a duty ratio of a brightness control signal to be output to a lighting device by controlling

a frequency of the brightness control signal in response to a vertical synchronization frequency." The vertical synchronization is equivalent to the frame frequency of 60Hz of NTSC system as described in line 9 of Para 0031.];

and driving the LCD in accordance with the derived PWM frequency of the inverter, [Nuimura: Para 0034, lines 1 – 5; "generates the driving signal Sd in response to the inputted PWM signal Sc, and the fluorescent lamp 4b is driven thereby."]

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta and Nuimura, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of controlling a PWM frequency of an inverter based on a frame frequency as taught by Nuimura into the method of identifying an LCD display information, including a frame frequency, in an EDID to obtain a method wherein display information such as frame frequency identified in an EDID is used to derive a PWM frequency of an inverter to correspondingly drive an LCD to avoid the display quality of a monitor by reducing the switching noise which is cause by incompatibility of a frame frequency and the display device (Nuimura: Para 0010).

The combined teachings of Nitta and Nuimura teach a method wherein display information such as frame frequency identified in an EDID is used to derive a PWM frequency of an inverter.

But does not expressly teach wherein the EDID includes an average frame frequency, and the PWM frequency is derived based on the average frame frequency.

However, Acharya teaches a system for display of information on an external display using a handheld computing device wherein the EDID information describes a

monitor's characteristics (e.g., vendor name, serial number, frequency range/minimum to maximum) and automatically configuring the output format for external display device (Acharya: Para 0086).

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of using a minimum and maximum frequency stored in EDID to automatically derive the PWM of the display device as taught by Acharya into the method wherein the PWM frequency is derived from the frequency received as taught by Nitta and Nuimura to obtain a method wherein a range of capable frame frequency is stored in an EDID to derive the PWM based on the minimum to maximum frequency received from the EDID so that appropriate output format configuration can be automatically made by utilizing the information in the EDID (Acharya: Para 0086), and since Applicant indicates in the specification that an average frame frequency may be "alternatively" expressed, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have an average frame frequency for controlling the PWM frequency for optimal performance of the LCD.

Re claim 2, Nitta teaches wherein the LCD frame frequency is identified by a vertical sync frequency recorded in the EDID (Para 0011; "Extended Display Identification Data, which includes, the resolution, frequency of vertical scan signals, frame rate...")

Re claim 3, the combined teachings of Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya teach the method of claim 1, wherein the memory is a non-volatile memory (Nitta discloses a method of storing EDID (extended Display Identification Data), which includes, the resolution, frequency of vertical scan signals, frame rate, vender code and the serial number in the memory of a Plug-and-Play compatible display apparatus [Nitta: Para 001]. As described by Nitta, the EDID is stored in memory.

Although Nitta does not explicitly state that the memory is a non-volatile memory, it is obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to realize that EDIDs must be stored in a non-volatile memory to achieve its purpose of retaining the monitor information/identity including the vendor information or the serial number, thereby preventing the loss of the monitor information when the monitor is disconnected from it power source.

The limitations to claim 6 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, claim 6 has been analyzed and rejected substantially similar to claim 2.

The limitations to claim 9 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claim 9 has been analyzed and rejected substantially similar to claim 1. With respect to the replacement LCD, Nitta teaches Plug-an-Play/replacement compatible displays wherein different displays output different EDID information for the displaying images properly according to the specifications (Para 0013).

The limitations of claim 10 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 6. Therefore it has been analyzed and rejected substantially similar to the rejection of claim 6.

Re claim 11, Nitta teaches an LCD (Para 0006; "display apparatus such as liquid crystal display) frame frequency recorded in extended display identification data (EDID) of a memory provided in an LCD (Para 0011; "display has specification information already stored in its memory. This specification information is called EDID, and included, for example, frame rate.) to automatically make optimal settings for a proper display;

But does not specifically disclose an apparatus controlling an inverter pulse width modulation (PWM) frequency of a liquid crystal display (LCD) in a portable computer, comprising:

deriving a PWM frequency of an inverter adapted to control a brightness of the LCD responsive to the identified LCD frame frequency; and

driving the LCD in accordance with the derived PWM frequency of the inverter for optimal display settings.

However, Nuimura teaches an apparatus that controls an inverter (inverter 4a) [Nuimura: Fig. 1] pulse width modulation (PWM) frequency of a liquid crystal display (LCD) [Nuimura: Para 0004; "display devices such as LCD used in notebook."] in a portable computer [Nuimura: Para 0027, lines 24 - 29; "the CPU determines the

frequency fc of the PWM signal Sc by inputting the frequency of the vertical synchronization frequency fv specified by frequency data Df."], comprising:

deriving a PWM frequency of an inverter adapted to control a brightness of the LCD responsive to the identified LCD frame frequency [Nuimura: Para 0012, lines 4 - 8; "a duty ratio of a brightness control signal to be output to a lighting device by controlling a frequency of the brightness control signal in response to a vertical synchronization frequency." The vertical synchronization is equivalent to the frame frequency of 60Hz of NTSC system as described in line 9 of Para 0031.];

and driving/controlling the LCD in accordance with the derived PWM frequency of the inverter, [Nuimura: Para 0034, lines 1 – 5; "generates the driving signal Sd in response to the inputted PWM signal Sc, and the fluorescent lamp 4b is driven thereby."]

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta and Nuimura, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of controlling a PWM frequency of an inverter based on a frame frequency as taught by Nuimura into the apparatus of identifying an LCD display information, including a frame frequency, in an EDID to obtain an apparatus wherein display information such as frame frequency identified in an EDID is used to derive a PWM frequency of an inverter to correspondingly drive an LCD to avoid the display quality of a monitor by reducing the switching noise which is cause by incompatibility of a frame frequency and the display device (Nuimura: Para 0010).

The combined teachings of Nitta and Nuimura teach an apparatus wherein display information such as frame frequency identified in an EDID is used to derive a PWM frequency of an inverter.

But does not expressly teach wherein the EDID includes an average frame frequency, and the PWM frequency is derived based on the average frame frequency.

However, Acharya teaches a system for display of information on an external display using a handheld computing device wherein the EDID information describes a monitor's characteristics (e.g., vendor name, serial number, frequency range/minimum to maximum) and automatically configuring the output format for external display device (Acharya: Para 0086).

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of using a minimum and maximum frequency stored in EDID to automatically derive the PWM of the display device as taught by Acharya into apparatus wherein the PWM frequency is derived from the frequency received as taught by Nitta and Nuimura to obtain an apparatus wherein a range of capable frame frequency is stored in an EDID to derive the PWM based on the minimum to maximum frequency received from the EDID so that appropriate output format configuration can be automatically made by utilizing the information in the EDID (Acharya: Para 0086), and since Applicant indicates in the specification that an average frame frequency may be "alternatively" expressed, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to

have an average frame frequency for controlling the PWM frequency for optimal performance of the LCD.

The limitations of claim 12 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 2.

Re claim 13, Nitta wherein the memory includes identification data for a plurality of LCDs (Nitta discloses method of storing EDID (extended Display Identification Data), which includes, the resolution, frequency of vertical scan signals, frame rate, vender code and the serial number in the memory of a Plug-and-Play compatible display apparatus where the information varies with models of display apparatus [Nitta: Para 0011]. The different models/(plurality) hold different information in its own memory. Therefore the identification data for each LCD is stored in its memory.

Re claim 14, the combined teachings of Nuimura, Nitta and Acharya teach that the control means sets the PWM frequency of the inverter to a frequency that does not substantially interfere with the vertical sync frequency (Nuimura teaches that a frequency of the brightness control signal/(PWM frequency of the inverter) is controlled by a control unit in response to a vertical synchronization frequency/(avoids synchronization/interference; see [Nuimura: Para 0010, lines 4 – 10]) in order to avoid switching noise [Nuimura: Para 0012, lines 4 – 8]).

The limitations of claim 15 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 6. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 6.

The limitations of claim 19 are substantially similar to the limitations of 2. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 2.

The limitations of claim 21 are substantially similar to the limitations of 11. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 11. With respect to the processor, Nuimura teaches a CPU/processor coupled to the display (See fig. 1. 3c contains a CPU and is coupled to a display device 2).

Re claim 22, Nuimura discloses wherein the display is rotatably coupled to the base module. It is inherent a notebook computers as described by Nuimura has the configuration such as the display being rotatably being coupled to the base in such a manner to mimic the configuration of a "notebook." Such as rotating the display for closing and opening the computer.

Re claim 26, the combined teachings of Nitta and Nuimura teach an apparatus wherein display information such as frame frequency identified in an EDID is used to derive a PWM frequency of an inverter.

But does not expressly disclose wherein the EDID includes a minimum frame frequency and a maximum frame frequency, and the controller controlling the PWM frequency based on the minimum frame frequency or the maximum frame frequency.

However, Acharya teaches a system for display of information on an external display using a handheld computing device wherein the EDID information describes a monitor's characteristics (e.g., vendor name, serial number, frequency range/minimum to maximum) (Acharya: Para 0086)

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of having a minimum and maximum frequency range as taught by Acharya into the portable computer wherein the PWM frequency is derived from the frequency received as taught by Nitta and Nuimura to obtain a portable computer wherein a range of capable frame frequency is stored in an EDID to derive the PWM based on the minimum to maximum frequency received from the EDID so that appropriate output format configuration can be automatically made by utilizing the information in the EDID (Acharya: Para 0086).

The limitations of claim 28 are substantially similar to the limitations of 26. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 26.

The limitations of claim 30 are substantially similar to the limitations of 26. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 26.

Re claim 32, the modified teachings of Nitta teach the portable computer of claim 21.

But does not expressly describe wherein the memory stores a plurality of PWM frequencies.

However, Nuimura teaches a plurality of PWM frequencies stored in advance in memory (Para 0039).

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of having a plurality of PWM frequencies as taught by Nuimura into the modified teachings of Nitta to obtain a portable computer wherein a plurality of PWM frequencies are store in memory to give a user multiple options for optimal PWM signals for variety of vertical synchronization signals (Nuimura: Para 0039).

Re claim 33, the modified teachings of Nitta teach determining PWM frequencies based on a selected LCD frame frequency that corresponds to the average frame frequency.

But does not expressly teach wherein the controller selects one of the plurality PWM frequencies based on a selected LCD frame frequency.

However, Nuimura teaches wherein a control program selects one of the PWM signal in response to the vertical synchronization frequency of the inputted image signal.

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya, as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the idea of selecting a PWM signal based on a frame frequency as taught by Nuimura into the modified teachings of Nitta to obtain a portable computer wherein a plurality of PWM frequencies selected based on a selected LCD frame frequency that corresponds to the average frame frequency to give a user multiple options for optimal PWM signals for variety of vertical synchronization signals (Nuimura: Para 0039).

The limitations of claim 34 are substantially similar to the limitations of 32. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 32.

The limitations of claim 35 are substantially similar to the limitations of 33. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 33.

The limitations of claim 36 are substantially similar to the limitations of 32. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 32.

The limitations of claim 37 and 38 are substantially similar to the limitations of 33. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 33.

4. **Claim 4 – 5, 18 and 23 - 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta in view of Nuimura and further in view of Acharya as**

applied to claims 1 – 3, 6, 9 – 15, 19, 21 – 22, 26, 28, 30 and 32 – 37 above, and further in view of Wada et al. (US 5,977,934, herein after "Wada").

Re claim 4, Nitta, Nuimura and Acharya as a whole teach the method of claim 1.

But fail to disclose the portable computer that is configured to receive a plurality of LCDs, wherein at least two of the LCDs have different frame frequencies.

However, Wada teaches the method of configuring an information processing apparatus to receive a plurality of LCD's ("TFT LCD" 2, "STN LCD" 9) [Wada: Fig. 2, Col. 2 lines 33 - 45], wherein the LCDs have different frame frequencies [Wada: Fig. 9C shows a FP, Frame Pulse/Frame frequency, that determines the beginning and the end of one screen in TFT LCD [Col. 5, lines 33 – 37], and Fig. 12C shows a FP of an STN LCD. The figures show that the lengths of the FP's are different from each other, therefore the frame frequencies are different.]

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Nuimura, Nitta, Acharya and Wada as a whole, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the method of receiving plurality of LCD's of as taught by Wada to the method claim 1 as taught by Nuimura, Nitta and Acharya to obtain a method of receiving plurality of LCD's with different frequencies so that any one of a plurality of types of display devices can be connected to a common information processing apparatus main unit. [Wada: Col. 2, lines 25 – 28]

Re claim 5, Nuimura, Nitta, Acharya and Wada as a whole teach the method of claim 4.

But does not teach that the plurality of LCDs is made by different venders.

However, the STN LCD and TFT LCD as disclosed by Wada, would differ not only in quality, but also in the manufacturing process. [Col 1, lines 56 – 67].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to realize that LCDs of different types would be provided by different venders to accommodate accessibility and availability of a user.

The limitations of claim 18 are substantially similar to the limitations of 4. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 4 (Nuimura's LCD includes lamps).

The limitations of claim 23 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 18. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 18.

The limitations of claim 24 are substantially similar to the limitations of claim 14. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected similar to the rejection of claim 14.

Re claim 25, the combined teachings of Nuimura, Nitta and Wada teach the portable computer of claim 24.

But does not teach that the memory is provided in a lamp of the LCD or in the LCD.

However, Examiner takes an official notice that it is well known in the art to use an EEPROM for the memory that stores EDID.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to use EEPROM for storing EDID in the memory to retain the display information even when the power is not applied to the system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Sim whose telephone number is (571) 270-1189. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (Alternate Fridays off) 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YHS
1/04/2008

AMR A. AWAD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER